# LIFE TOGETHER This Week

Week of January 14, 2025 Vol 167 Real Faith For Real Life

#### **Christmas Thanks**

It shouldn't be a surprise that FPLC members are generous, but it truly shines during the season of giving!

With members' help, we were able to provide 34 inner-city, early-childhood kids with Christmas gifts through the Next Door Holiday gift drive.



Members also contributed gifts for the men at Serenity Inns. Due to a number of transitions within Serenity Inns right before Christmas, we were asked to provide a variety of gifts so that the staff at SI could



provide the new men with a few gifts to open on Christmas. FPLC members provided: 27 sweatshirts, 9 pairs of slippers, 17 pairs of boxers, 29 pairs of socks and a variety of other miscellaneous clothing items.

As part of a Confirmation Service Workshop, our group of approximately 65 confirmation students donated well over 100 toys and gifts for the children served at MacCanon Brown Homeless Shelter.

Thank you for your generosity!



New Grief Support Group Beginning in February Information Session: Sunday, February 2; 11:45 Grief can be one of the most painful and persistent

forms of sorrow, impacting our lives in many ways. When we're grieving the death of someone we love, we need support from others who understand what we are experiencing and a place to gather together to offer care and encouragement to one another.

In February, we will begin a shared journey of twelve sessions meeting on a weekly basis. They will be facilitated by one of our pastors.

If you are interested in learning more, please plan to attend an informational session. You may also reach out to Pastor Bruce at <a href="mailto:pastorbruce@foxpointchurch.org">pastorbruce@foxpointchurch.org</a>.

Date: Sunday, February 2

Time: 11:45 am

Location: FPLC's Heritage Room

#### Cookies for the Residents of Luther Manor

January is the month that FPLC is scheduled to provide cookies for the 200 plus Luther Manor Health Care Center residents. The cookie drive is a way to reach out and make the day brighter for the residents during challenging times.

Luther Manor is requesting either store-bought packaged cookies or homemade cookies. Softer

purchased cookies without nuts or seeds comply with the dietary needs of many of the residents. Please deliver them directly to the church office by noon, Friday, January 24. If you need someone to pick up the cookies, please call Janet Quail, 414-967-7942.











#### You enjoy Mt. Meru Coffee at church every Sunday. Now buy it for your home!

You'll be helping support a thousand hard-working farmers and their desperately poor families in our partner Meru Diocese in Tanzania.

In 1998, their Bishop Akyoo and a delegation came here with the idea of creating a market for quality coffee from Meru. Two years later, our Synod Coffee Committee created the Mt. Meru Coffee Project, and it was approved and incorporated as a non-profit. It's managed by 14 local volunteers and a board of 8 and will soon be celebrating its 25th year. Our imports now average 25,000 pounds a year.

Pastor Bill is in Tanzania right now. He and his fellow travelers are very aware of the challenges facing the people in our partner district. In addition to growing food for their families, our coffee farmers squeeze in as many coffee trees as possible on the one or two acres around their homes. All their beans are Arabica, considered special because they are cultivated at 4000 feet and grow more slowly. As a result, the flavor is richer, more complex, with taste notes like fruitiness and floral aromas—less bitter.

The farmers harvest the "cherries" between June and December and then hike the heavy bags miles to one of our six processing centers. There, two salaried employees oversee the process. Volunteers use machines to clean off the soft tissue leaving the seeds—coffee beans. The final processing steps taken in the town of Moshi are to air-tumble them and sort them into five sizes. The beans are then put through quality tests called cupping. The highest quality end up in your home.

Our Mt. Meru Coffee Project pays the farmers more than the market price for their premium coffee—just under \$200 a year. That helps them support their families with dignity, send their children to school, and obtain health care. Their best beans are

shipped to Milwaukee, where Imperial Roasters stores them for free and roasts them and delivers the coffee to Martin Luther Church where our volunteers package and label them.

The typical family in Tanzania lives on an income of \$400-\$500 a year so the coffee income really helps! Place your orders today and enable our coffee farmers to do a bit better. It's a gift to yourself and their families!

Pr. Bill is in Tanzania right now with a small group. When he returns, we'll share important information about his journey and our partnership with the Dioceses in Tanzania!









#### **Soles for Jesus**

Shoes. They are a basic luxury that we take for granted every day as we choose our favorite pair from our closet. Millions of people across our globe live barefoot lives. Not only does

this cause health issues, it makes injuries more prevalent. It also keeps people from work and school, where shoes are required.

We are holding a shoe drive for Soles for Jesus now through January 31. They accept new and used shoes for children or adults, male or female. All sizes and types of shoes are welcome donations. Shoes not appropriate for others to wear are recycled and turned into other materials, like playground flooring. The shoes are sent to developing countries in Africa.

At the end of January, some of our Confirmation students will be going to the Soles for Jesus warehouse to learn more about their mission and to volunteer sorting, washing and packing shoes. (Confirmation families, see page 9 for details and to register.)

To learn more about the mission of Soles for Jesus click on this link for videos, statistics, pictures and more. Soles for Jesus

A donation box will be located next to the Welcome Desk starting the first Sunday in January. Questions? Contact Stacia Hickey; <a href="mailto:stacia@foxpointchurch.org">stacia@foxpointchurch.org</a>.



#### **FPLC '25 Blood Drives**

Tues
January 28
1 – 6 pm

Thurs
March 27
1 – 6 pm

Thurs
May 22
1 – 6 pm

Tues **July 22**1 – 6 pm

Thurs
October 30
1 – 6 pm

Despite 65% of the population being eligible, only 3% of Americans currently donate blood. Be a hero and donate blood to help save lives! Thank you for donating. Never donated before? Become a first-time donor!!

FPLC is offering Blood Drives in Fellowship Hall throughout 2025. These dates are open to the public as well, so invite a friend to donate with you!

To sign up: Click HERE



#### **Hospital Visits**

If you or a loved one is hospitalized and would like a visit or call from a pastor (or just for them to know you are hospitalized), please call the church office;

414-352-8990. Due to HIPAA rules, hospitals are not allowed to share with us that you are a patient.



#### **Missing Something**

We have quite a collection of coats, water bottles, sunglasses . . .stop by the Welcome Desk on Sunday mornings and they will show you our lost and found or come into the office during the week

to claim your items. If items aren't claimed after several weeks, they will be donated.







On 21 May 2015 Joanne Weinberg, Debbie Konkol and Chris Halverson visited the grave in the Jewish cemetery in Strasbourg, in which their grandmother Alice Simon is buried. The little stones that they left behind for memory, they had brought with them from their homes in USA.

## Women's Club (Men Invited!) From Holocaust to Civil Rights

Three sisters present the story of their pilgrimage to Germany and France to retrace their grandmother's recently discovered, tragic and shocking murder during the Holocaust. The Simon sisters discuss how this history influenced their father, the Rev. Dr. Carl R. Simon, in his lifetime commitment to work for civil and human rights. They describe his trip to Alabama in 1965 to support the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Selma March.

Date: Wednesday, February 12

Times: 11:30 – Gather in Fellowship Hall for Fellowship.

12:00 – Lunch; with presentation to follow.

**Location:** Fellowship Hall **Cost:** \$10, includes lunch

Sign up: In Fellowship Hall by Sunday, February 9, noon

Contact: Gail Sommerfeld at sommerfeld56@gmail.com or 262-395-0396.

#### **Our March Meeting is:**

March 12 | 11:30 am

Collage Keepsakes by Judy (Collage Quilting)

#### Nancy Yarbrough and the Purposeful Purse Project

On Jan. 8, Nancy Yarbrough, Founder & Executive Director, of Fresh Start Learning, spoke to Women's Club about the importance of us donating the purses to be distributed to women in need. However, her inspiring talk took many twists and turns, as she told us her story of traumas in her life and the other organizations that Fresh Start Learning helps. She has put her life in the hands of God to guide her to continue to grow and give. If you didn't have the chance to see her presentation, she gave us links to check out who she is and how she helps in our community and beyond. It's worth the watch!

http://www.freshstartlearninginc.org

https://iamnancyyarbrough.com/

https://www.ted.com/talks/nancy yarbrough myths misconceptions mysteries and mistakes of the sex trade?utm campaign=tedspread&utm medium=referral&utm source=tedcomshare



#### Women's Book Club February 24; 7 - 8:30 pm

The February book is *Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon. We meet in the lower

level in the Meeting Space (next to the lower level Cafe). For a full list of the books, see our <u>website</u>. Questions: contact Joanne Ginster; <u>imginster@yahoo.com</u> or (414) 491-8939.

#### **Ushers Needed!**

Would you like to join our usher team? It's open to Confirmation students with a parent, and high school kids through adults. Sign up with the QR code or contact



Lori Barrieau; lori@foxpointchurch.org.





#### Chili Throwdown!

One of our most popular social events, the Chili Throwdown is a fun event for all!

#### Chili Tasters

Come to sample tasty, homemade chili and rate your favorite recipes and help determine the winning chefs. There will be a beer tasting station for adults and hot dogs & chips for the kiddos.

#### Do you make the world's best chili? Prove it!

We are looking for chili chefs who will enter their finest chili recipe into our competition! Attendees will vote for their favorites and a best Chili King or Queen will be crowned. There will be prizes for Chef's Choice, 2nd Runner Up, and Best Presentation. It's a fun-filled, no-pressure cooking experience.

It will be a great night of eating chili and connecting with friends old and new! We are not able to offer child care for this event. To register to attend or to cook, click the links to the right.



## **Knitters and Crocheters Needed! Soap Sacks**

Soap Sacks are hand-knit or crocheted drawstring bags that hold a standard size bar of soap. The sacks can be used simply to hold the soap or people can leave the soap in the bag and use it as a soap-filled wash

cloth. FPLC will fill each bag with a donated bar of soap and deliver them to our partners in Milwaukee to give to their pantry guests. Some of the guests are homeless or move frequently.

They may not have access to soap or washcloths on a regular basis. If you can't make these but would like to help, donate standard-sized bars of soap in our food carts.

This is an ongoing project, so you may donate these any time in our Food Donation Cart or at the Welcome Desk.

If you wish to include a standard-sized bar of soap with the Soap Sacks you donate, please keep the soap in its wrapper before putting it inside the sack. That way it stays clean until it reaches its recipient. Donations can be left in our food donation carts.

See the links below for instructions. If you have a pattern you'd prefer to use, that's fine! We just ask that they be similar in size, have a drawstring or tie to close the sack and that you use cotton yarn.

A sample will be in Fellowship Hall on the Sign Up Tables!

If you have any questions, please contact Stacia Hickey; <a href="mailto:stacia@foxpointchurch.org">stacia@foxpointchurch.org</a>.







#### **Kids' Church!**

Our new Sunday morning program for kids, **Kids' Church**, has started! If your children are participating in Kid's Church and haven't been registered yet, click the appropriate button below to fill out the registration form ASAP.





Our preschool friends-Little Foxes-will continue to meet in the lower-level Preschool Room.



Our younger elementary friends (K5–3rd grades)—our Faith Explorers—will meet in the Movie Room in the Sunday School hallway. We will use a variety of rooms in this area, based on our different activities each Sunday.



Our older elementary kids (4th–6th grades)–our Faith Builders–will now meet in the Café area, which gives them the space they need to build their faith and community in new and varied ways.

If you have questions, contact Julie Schlifske, Director of Children's Ministries; <u>julie@foxpointchurch.org</u>. Of course, you are welcome to come downstairs on any Sunday to meet our new teachers and see our programs in action.

#### **Preschool Registration:**

Do you have a child who will be age 3 as of September 1 through 4 years old?



#### **Elementary Registration:**

Do you have a child who is in K5 – 6th grade this fall?



## Congratulations to all our students receiving their First Communion on January 5



Mason Bendickson
Matthew Dropp
Nick Ferguson
Rex Fischer
Anna Gustafson
Samuel Hayden
Blake Holtz
Luella Holtz
Sabine Hongsermeier
Elsie Jacob
Lucy Janczak

Elizabeth Katt
Maddie McLean
Lucy Mies
Else Mudra
Marloe Nelson
Harper Paulson
Henry Pillar
Kjersten Shock
Selene Taylor
Parker Tompa







#### 150 Lunches—January 26 MacCanon Brown Homeless Sanctuary

Stop downstairs on Sunday January 26 to make 150 brown bag lunches for MacCanon Brown Homeless Sanctuary. No need to sign up—come

down between services. Families/people of all ages are



encouraged, but come right after the 9 am service because it only takes about 20 minutes!



#### **High School Youth Group**

At Youth Group, our vision is to create an atmosphere for high schoolers to grow, connect, worship and serve.

We welcome all! Whether you go to church every Sunday, or have never stepped foot inside FPLC, if you're interested in exploring your faith, fellow-

ship and having some fun—come join us!

If you need a ride, we encourage carpooling (responsibly). If anyone needs a ride, please let us know and we WILL figure something out so all can attend. We do need people to RSVP to these events; a link to do so will be sent out ahead of time. If you have any questions about Youth Group, please contact Hannah Knapp; <a href="mailto:hannah@foxpointchurch.org">hannah@foxpointchurch.org</a>.

#### Feb 22: Chicago Mini-Mission Trip—NEW DATE!

We will be taking the train to Chicago to serve those in need! Come travel in the city, serving those who need help. (8am-5pm, estimated time)

RSVP is required for this event:



### The Basics of Baby Massage: A Parent Infant Class

Best for babies 2 weeks to

under 12 months and their parent(s)/guardian(s). Infant massage can relieve fussiness, pain and discomfort for the baby as well as help babies fall asleep sooner and sleep more restfully. Bring your baby, a blanket and wear comfy clothes to class as we will be on the floor. Handouts will be provided.

**Date:** January 17; additional sessions are on the 3rd Friday of the month. It's a one-session class, but can come to more if you would like.

Time: 11:00 am – 12:00 pm Limit: 6 families per session

Registration: Call or email Angie Biersach,

414-207-2808 or

angiebiersach@gmail.com to RSVP.

Help Needed: Jan 19 & Feb 9 and beyond!

#### **Coffee Hosts Needed!**

Hosts make the coffee and serve the donuts on Sundays. You are still able to attend the church service. Just slip in at

the back as the service is starting and slip out as it's ending. Families are welcome to volunteer with their kids! It's also a great Service Opportunity for our Confirmation students (with an adult).

9:00 am shift: (Approx 8:15 am – 10:15 am) Cut up the donuts, brew the coffee, and set things out.

10:30 am shift: (Approx 10:15 am – 11:45 am) Keep the coffee brewing, fill the donut trays as needed and clean up afterwards.

If you'd like to help with this important part of Sunday mornings, please sign up with the link below or contact Lori Barrieau in the church office if you have any questions; <a href="mailto:lori@foxpointchurch.org">lori@foxpointchurch.org</a> or 414-352-8990.







#### Serenity Inns Dinner Fellowship

Serenity Inns is a residence for men in recovery from alcohol and/or drug abuse in Milwaukee. FPLC has a long volunteer relationship with SI.

What to expect when volunteering?

Volunteers
needed:
For February &
Beyond!
Great SOP for
Confirmation
Families!

Volunteers make dinner and take it warm to the Inn by 5:45 pm (for a 6 pm start time). You join them for dinner and conversation. The number of residents is around 12-14. Two families can volunteer together! You'll be cooking for yourselves, the men and the innkeeper. You're usually on your way home by 7 pm.

"Dinner Fellowship taught me things about myself I never knew. Serenity Inns changed my life. Serenity Inns saved my life."

Please prayerfully consider volunteering at Dinner Fellowship. Sign up on the website (see link below) or on the sign-up in Fellowship Hall. Questions? FPLC member Lorraine Buehler is happy to answer any of your questions; <a href="mailto:lcbuehler@cs.com">lcbuehler@cs.com</a>

Have a buddy? Feel free to sign up with another person or family to prepare the meal and go to dinner together!

Click here to sign up!





# Sheepshead at FPLC Dates: Jan 24 & Feb 14 & 28 Declared the official card game

of Milwaukee in 1983, Sheepshead is a staple to Wisconsin card players.

Are you interested in joining a group of Sheepshead players to meet at church for some friendly competition? We play in Fellowship Hall, on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of each month from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. We will have "learning aids" available to help with the basics, and experienced players to guide you.

We are looking forward to sharing the fun! For more information, contact Jim Schmidt at schmidtyjim@aol.com.



#### Fox Point Moms Fridays, Jan. 17 & 31; 9:30 - 11 am

This is for moms of all ages with children or grandchildren of all ages! We'll support each other on mom and family issues and discuss a short devotional at each meeting.

We're creating a judgment-free time to mentor each other, vent, ask parenting, family or spousal questions and be a

support to each other. We meet twice a month. Haven't joined us before? No problem, join any time. Thanks!

If you have any questions, contact Diane Knapp; diane@foxpointchurch.org.





## Fox Point Moms—Evening Group; February 4 & 18; 6:30 - 8 pm; Heritage Rm

This adult group offers a safe, open space to support moms of any age. We will begin with a podcast (Revived Motherhood) by Becky Thompson, who offers realistic and supportive faithbased advice for today's busy moms. The group meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month. This will be a time to mentor

and support each other and discuss parenting and family issues. Please RSVP so we know how many people to expect. Thanks!

If you have any questions, contact Diane Knapp; diane@foxpointchurch.org.

Join the Group







#### **Meru Coffee at Home!**

#### Support Mt. Meru Coffee Farmers and Drink Delicious Coffee at Home!

You can purchase Mt. Meru Coffee (beans, ground, regular, decaf, sample flavor packs, Seasonal Premium Mt. Meru coffee, k-cups) at church to brew at home.

Not only is the coffee delicious, but your purchase helps support the growers running small coffee farms in the Meru District of Tanzania.

Stop by the Welcome Desk on Sunday mornings or in the office during the week to make your purchases.



#### **Caregivers Support Group**

Led by FPLC member Susan Halling, a marriage and family therapist, this group is for caregivers dealing with changes in

family dynamics. Challenges include: role reversal, juggling responsibilities, handling dementia, loss and transitions as we move into uncharted territory. The group meets Fridays at 10:30 am in FPLC's first floor Heritage Room. If you are interested in joining or learning more, please call the FPLC office at 414-352-8990.



#### **Bayside Garden Cards**

Keep the birds well fed by purchasing feeders or seed at Bayside

Garden Center. They also have beautiful indoor plants from tiny to large to keep your home feeling cozy during the winter months.

Bayside Gardens helps us send teens in Tanzania to high school—an FPLC commitment of \$10,000 a year. All you have to do is purchase Bayside gift cards at church (NOT at the garden center). We retain 15% of each card's cost, which helps us keep our promise to our partner dioceses in Tanzania. Cards can be purchased at the Welcome Desk on Sunday mornings or in the church office during the week.

## URGENT NEED: SPACE HEATERS!



Point your camera at the QR code to access the registry; or click on the Amazon logo.



a,

#### M B H S R E G I S T R Y

Help the guests of MacCanon Brown Homeless Sanctuary stay warm and well-fed this winter.

- Go to our registry (use the QR code below or search Amazon's custom gift registries for MBHS)
- Select and pay for the items you choose
- They will be sent directly to MBHS's delivery address

OR

Purchase items where you like and place them in the FPLC food donation carts.

- Crock pots
- Toaster ovens
- Space heaters
- Electric skillets
- Electric hot plates
- Blenders (for those who have trouble chewing)

QUESTIONS?

stacia@foxpointchurch.org







All the information you need can be found on our website here: **Confirmation**. If you have any questions regarding Confirmation, please contact Lori Barrieau; <a href="mailto:lori@foxpointchurch.org">lori@foxpointchurch.org</a>.

#### **Upcoming Dates:**

January 22—Workshop

January 25—SOP opening; Soles for Jesus (see below)

February 12—Workshop

February 26—Workshop



## **Soles for Jesus Confirmation SOP Space is limited to 25 students, sign up soon!**

Soles for Jesus is a Milwaukee-based non-profit which collects new or used shoes and ships them to impoverished areas in Africa. They rely heavily on volunteers to make this work happen!

Confirmation students have the opportunity to work together organizing, cleaning and packing shoes for shipment. They'll also hear more about the organization and the people it serves—the millions of people living a barefoot life. They are exposed to illness & injury daily without shoes. People cannot go to school or get a job; shoes are required in those places. Even worn shoes are a treasure in a developing country.

#### **Please Note:**

If you cannot make this event, there are many dates open to make dinner and enjoy it with the men at Serenity Inns. Sign up as a family or with another family and go together!

See page 8 for details!

We'll need 4 FPLC adults with 25 students. Although you don't need to attend with your student, we do need 4 adults to supervise. Once the parent and student slots on this form are full, we are at their group capacity.

**Date:** Saturday, January 25 **Time:** 9:00am – 11:00 am

What to Wear: This is a hands-on job, so all should dress appropriately in clothing that can get dirty and damp.

Location: (We'll meet there): Soles for Jesus

8835 W Heather Ave Milwaukee, WI 53224

Sign Up: You must RSVP to attend. Click the link to register: Soles for Jesus

Questions: Contact Stacia Hickey; stacia@foxpointchurch.org.







One Angel \_\_\_ Needed!



#### **Keep the Pantries Stocked**

Your generous donations allow FPLC to continue donating nutritious, filling and culturally-appropriate food to our partners. Each of the 3 pantries we support receive at least one delivery of food & personal care products a month.

All Peoples Church served 16,000 individuals at their pantry in 2024. MacCanon Brown Homeless Sanctuary serves 200+ households and individuals weekly. It's easy for their supplies to dwindle each week, so it's important we help them restock on a regular basis.

If you have any questions, please contact Stacia Hickey; <a href="mailto:stacia@foxpointchurch.org">stacia@foxpointchurch.org</a>.

**Note:** We cannot accept any expired foods; check labels. We are looking for filling and culturally-appropriate foods, not specialty items.

#### **Food Needs:**

Baked Beans
Canned black-eyed peas
Ensure Infant Formula
Dinty Moore Stew

Canned fruit

Canned beef and chicken

Soup (not tomato) Baby formula

Spam
Sardines
Peanut butter
Canned Yams

**Razors** 

**Chicken Noodle Soup** 

Tuna Salmon

> Vienna sausages Mac & cheese Canned vegetables 16 oz oatmeal Canned Pasta

Pasta Sauce in cans or plastic Honey Nut Cheerios/Cereal

Hamburger Helper

ned Yams Jelly

#### **Personal Care Items:**

(Regular full-sized preferred, not bulk size)

Men's deodorant
Women's deodorant
Body wash
Toothpaste
Shampoo/Conditioner
Feminine products
Diapers sized 4-6
Body lotion
Toilet paper
Lip balm
Vaseline
Dish soap

\*\*Standard-sized Bar soap: We have a special need for bar soap to fill the soap sacks our knitters/crocheters have been busy making. See page 5 for info on those.



#### **Kitchen Angels**

It's feels good when you walk into an organized, clean and well-supplied kitchen when you are ready to cook, serve a meal, prepare for an event.

#### What is a Kitchen Angel?

That is exactly what our Kitchen Angel team does here at FPLC. They make sure we have plenty of ground coffee for Sunday morning, that the creamer is stocked and fresh, that dishes are put away in their proper places and that there are clean towels ready for washing and drying the dishes. Once a year they get together to do a big deep-clean of the entire kitchen.

#### What's Involved if I Volunteer?

Each person who signs up to be an Angel chooses one month during which they check the kitchen supplies and lets the office know what needs to be ordered. They also launder the towels. Generally they do this once a week on a day of their choosing.

The whole group meets once a year to give the kitchen a thorough cleaning. With up to 12 helpers, this goes pretty quickly!

#### How Do I Sign Up?

You can sign up right in Fellowship Hall, where you will be able to choose which month you would like to be an Angel. There is a list of instructions next to the sign up. You will also be emailed the instructions and a contact list of all the other Angels for guidance.

This Sounds Awesome (and super helpful to FPLC), but I Have Some Questions

Sandy Gepfert can answer all your Kitchen Angel questions! Just give her a call! 414-351-0374.



#### **Quilters/Piecemakers: Join Us!**

Join us as we make quilts for those in need. New members are always welcome and we'll teach you what to do. Bring your

lunch and enjoy a break with other quilters. Come and go as your schedule permits.

Date: Tuesday, January 21
Time: 9 am – 1:30 pm
Location: Fellowship Hall

Contact: Ellen Feider; 414-435-8440;

efeiderwi@gmail.com



### PRAYER LIST All in The Family

Join us on Sunday, for the virtual service. If you or your family need anything we can help you with, call the office at 414-352-8990 or email church@ foxpointchurch.org!

Robert Palmer

Tan Popatas

Mary Ellen Resenhoeft -

Patrick

Rebecca

Peter

Now you can make a prayer request through our website. Click **Prayer** Requests to submit a form or submit email—church@fox-

**Prayer Requests** 

a request through pointchurch.org.

**Military** Alex Grant Cooper Ian Danny Kyan David Matthew

#### We encourage you to keep these people in your prayers during the week.

Woody Barksdale Daniel Kim Bell Cammy Endres **Jav Blair** Erin Brenda Frank Cullen C. Rick Frank John Chamberlain Andrea G. Cheryl Jenny G. Richard Choi Joan Gildner Chris Guy Christine Anna H. Chrystal Heather Claire Heidi Curt Claus Sue Hiller Colin Harlow James Rosie Conaway Lila Jerabek Craig Iim

Lyle Dabney

Dale

Pr. Dan

Joan Ioeli John Ion

Donna Jordahl Julia Randy K. Kath Corrine Kraus Leslie Linda Pr. Luke Laurie M Steve M. Mary MaryEllen Matt Pat Meyer

Bloomquist Rick Robert Dave Rotter Roy Ryan Sarah Stephen Michael Jane T. Mike Terry Nancy Thad Curt Nash Tom Mike Umland Marla O'Brian





Written by FPLC member, Mary
Buscher. This devotion was first shared on
Wednesday, January
15. If you would like to receive Mary's devotion on a weekly basis, please sign up here:
Weekly Devotion.

#### Hello!

"Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires." – James 1:20

Unintended moments of frustration are way too frequent in my world! Impatience with customer service at a bank let words fly out of my mouth and land like concrete – "I didn't mean to say that!" Shyness at coffee hour prevented me from introducing myself – the moment passed too soon – "I didn't mean to do that!" Sparks fly during political disagreements...between friends! There are "I didn't mean to...!" occasions in our lives needing mercy because we either we did or didn't do...something.

"Do not be quickly provoked in your spirit, for anger resides in the lap of fools." – Ecclesiastes 7:9 Speaking or acting out in haste or anger or being overly eager to win a point are opportunities for God's intervention that cry out for grace and forgiveness. Creations wrought with His love poured into us...we are those precious vessels meant to pour out grace and generosity to others. So often stymied because we really "...didn't mean to...!" He can help us to be careful instead of being careless.

"The trouble with me, for I am all too human, a slave to sin. I don't really understand myself, for I want to do what is right, but I don't do it. Instead, I do what I hate." – Romans 7:14-15

In Romans, Paul writes openly and honestly of his struggle with sin. A persecutor of the early Christians, then transformed by an encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus, also "didn't mean to" and realized his own imperfections and shortcomings. We can do the same...we can really put good intention back into our words and actions and really "mean" to do...good!

Father, thank you for loving us first and offering us grace and forgiveness when we are short-sighted and speak or act in haste. You alone know our hearts and you know that we mean well. Help us to do better and continue to work at being the better angels that you created. Amen.

Have a blessed and wonderful week! - Mary